(a) whether Government are contemplating to modernise the small and medium industries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action so far in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Small Industries Development organisation (SIDO), through the net work of small industries service institutes are pursuing Modernisation Programme in the following manner: — Study of specific industries in large concentrations of clusters to diagnose cluster problems. — Unit Specific Studies (Inplant Studies) for working out modernisation package. — Contact Programmes such as workshops for awareness of Modernisation Programme. SIDO is also contemplating to pursue the modernisation programme jointly with SBI and SIDBI for the small scale sector. A scheme of Trust Fund for technology upgradation to support the need for modernisation & technology upgradation in the small scale sector has also been approved recently.

(d) Does not arise.

Measures to tone up industrial sector

3168. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy measures taken by Government to tone up industrial sector during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which these measures have helped in improving industrial production; and

(c) the role played by the State Governments so far in the implementation of New Industrial Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Various policy masures taken in the last three years to tone up the industrial sector, interalia, include delicensing, automatic approvals for foreign investment and technology agreements, reform in public sector, reduction and rationalisation of import and excise duties, removal of restriction on imports except for a short list of items in the negative list, etc.

(b) The rate of growth of industrial production has recovered from 0.6% in 1991-92 to 3% in 1993-94.

(c) The role of State Governments have changed from that of exercising control to providing necessary assistance and guidance to entrepreneurs. Most State Governments have announced their Industrial Policies in tune with the New Industrial Policy of the Central Government and have set up agencies to assist entrepreneurs in setting up of projects.

Meeting of Prime Minister with PSU Managers

3169. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Economic Times, dated 30th July, 1994 under the caption PSU Chiefs want Government stake diluted to below 50 percent and also their meeting with him in this connection, indicating whether full autonomy to PSU Managers is being considered;

(b) if so, what are the demands made recently at a meeting of an apex level forum of public sector Chairmen, indicating the outcome of their recent discussions on 30th July, 1994 with him;

(c) whether Government have so far taken any decision/action on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee on PSU disinvestment; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, indicating which recommendations have been accepted by Government so far till 30th July, 1994; and

(d) whether any decision at a higher level has been taken so far over the crucial question of Government's ownership i.e. predominant shareholder or its holding could be below 50 percent if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Government are